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Secretary of Education's Statement Regarding State of Education Address

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of Education Glen Thomas today issued the following statement regarding State Superintendent O'Connell's State of Education address:

"In the face of the national economic downturn and state budget crisis we must be innovative in approaching the issues facing education today. The Governor has gone to extraordinary lengths to protect education from feeling the full effects of the state's \$42 billion budget deficit by fully funding Prop 98, continuing to give education \$4.6 billion on top of that and proposing \$13.8 billion in spending flexibility so California's schools can set their spending priorities for what they need most.

"It's important to emphasize that even during difficult times California schools are making great strides in improving student achievement, although I agree that there is still much work that needs to be done to close the achievement gap. I look forward to working with the education community to accomplish this common goal."

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